WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Removal of Mosque from the Airport

610. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Airport mosque poses security threat" which appeared Inthe Times of India, New Delhi dated the 13th October, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to remove the mosque from the airport in view of the increased security threat to aircrafts landing at the airport"?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION {SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The mosque in question is falling under the developmental plan and extension of 2nd runway. Hence, Airports Authority of India has taken up with Government of West Bengal for shifting of mosque. In the meantime, to ensure that there is no breach of security, persons going to the mosque are frisked, their entry is regulated from gate No. 8, through a fence, and they are kept under the strict watch of Airport Security personnel.

Permission to Foreign Airlines for Enhancing Passenger Capacity

611. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it Is a fact that Government have decided to open skies during the peak winter season i.e. from December, 2002 to February, 2003 due to rush In traffic during the above period;

(b) whether Government are also thinking of giving permission to some of the foreign airlines to enhance their capacity of passengers and frequency beyond the bilateral rights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the airlines to which permission has been given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK); (a) to (d}The Government have issued